UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Saturday, May 18:** Joint event with the Loveland Historical Society  
  Dedication of OCTA plaque at the Mariano Medina Family Cemetery  
  Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
  Location: West First Street and Namaqua Road – Loveland, Colorado  
  Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own lawn chairs for this event.

- **Saturday, June 8:** Virginia Dale Stage Station Open House  
  Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
  Location: U.S. Highway 287 – Virginia Dale, Colorado  
  Crafts, Food, Quilt Raffle, General Store, Speakers, Games; Theme: Abraham Lincoln.  
  OCTA members Susan and Duane Kniebes, and Wayne Sundberg are among the speakers at this event. Sharon Danhauer will speak and present a donation from our chapter to Virginia Dale’s Restoration Fund.  
  [www.virginiadalecommunityclub.org](http://www.virginiadalecommunityclub.org)

- **Saturday, June 29:** Chapter meeting with speaker, and tour of El Pueblo History Museum  
  Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
  Location: 301 North Union Street – Pueblo, Colorado  
  Cost: Adults $5.00; Seniors (65+) $4.00  
  Members of History Colorado: Free

  **Evening event (optional): “Song of Pueblo” Concert**  
  Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
  Cost: $15.00

  This concert explores Pueblo’s early days, beginning with the Spanish/Mexican era of the 1700s through Pueblo’s tragic Flood of 1921, with songs, vignettes, historical images and narration performed by the El Pueblo Ensemble.  
  [www.historycolorado.org/museums/el-pueblo-history-museum-0](http://www.historycolorado.org/museums/el-pueblo-history-museum-0)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, August 24  
10:00 a.m. – noon: Chapter meeting, with speaker and tour, at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.  
12:15: Lunch at a nearby restaurant.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Sharon Danhauer

I spent a pleasant weekend in March attending OCTA’s midyear board meeting and Symposium in Tucson, Arizona, along with Marvin Burke, Pat Powell, and Camille Bradford from our chapter. I enjoyed meeting members of OCTA’s national board, other chapter presidents and some members of our Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter who live in other states.

The focus of the Symposium was the importance of the southern trails and the efforts being made to include them in the National Trails system. The Symposium included two days of outstanding speakers at the Arizona Historical Society, followed by a day of bus tours.

Ruins of Fort Bowie. National Park Service photo.

I opted to take the tour to the ruins of Fort Bowie, built in 1862 atop Apache Pass and abandoned in 1894. This site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and is now maintained by the National Park Service as the Fort Bowie National Historic Site. Fort Bowie was the focal point of military operations in the conflict with the Chiricahua Apache Indians. > Continued on page 3
Further information about the history of the tribe and Fort Bowie are on the National Park Service website, [www.nps.gov/fobo](http://www.nps.gov/fobo). This is a beautiful area, and I highly recommend a visit to this historic site.

In addition to the upcoming events on page 1, everyone is invited to the Loveland Historical Society’s “Pioneers and Trails” bus tour on May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $45 for non-members of LHS and include lunch and admission to the Timberlane Farm Museum.

Checks may be mailed to LHS, with a memo “Bus tour,” 503 North Lincoln Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537. The bus leaves from and returns to the museum at the address above. Please contact me for further information on this event: sadanhau@gmail.com or 970-290-0169.

**MESSAGE FROM YOUR WEBMASTER AND VICE PRESIDENT**

By Berl Meyer

Greetings trail rut searchers. I am in the process of planning our meetings for the summer of 2013. We will be heading to Pueblo and Colorado Springs to explore some of the trail history of Southern Colorado. We hope to stimulate more interest and membership in that area. Please bring any friends or family members to these events who might be interested in learning about this fascinating history or in joining OCTA. I have posted some articles on the chapter website about the trail history of Southern Colorado: [www.octa-colorado.org/Pueblo.html](http://www.octa-colorado.org/Pueblo.html). We look forward to seeing you at these events.

June:
El Pueblo History Museum

August:
Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

*Please “Like” the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter on Facebook. Click on the icon at left to visit our page.*
SUN OR MOON ALTITUDE/AZIMUTH TABLE
By Bruce Watson, Preservation Committee Chair

During last October's Salt Lake City conference with the National Park Service, Stafford Hazelett, an OCTA member, gave a demonstration using Terrain Navigator Pro. In the presentation, he needed to determine the sun's angle and compass heading for 1846, at a specific date and time. I've been in contact with him in the interim and he gave me a website for calculating both the sun and moon positions, depending on time of day (or night). There may be specific historic dates where this information can be of use, or better yet, it's fun to play with. I've plugged in my specific location and times, and took a compass to verify their results; pretty neat.

http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/AltAz.php

MARIANO’S CROSSING IS FINALIST FOR COLORADO BOOK AWARD
A recent message from chapter member David Jessup, owner of the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland, included the news that his novel, Mariano’s Crossing, is one of three finalists for the Colorado Book Award in Literary Fiction. The award winner will be announced at the Colorado Book Award Celebration on June 21, in Aspen, Colorado.

“Based on real people and historic events in post-gold rush Colorado, Mariano’s Crossing relates the struggle between Mariano Medina, former mountain man and friend of Kit Carson, his Indian wife, Takánsy, and young John Alexander, the son of a hardscrabble sawmill owner, over the future of the Medinas’ fifteen-year old daughter, Lena. Their tug of war soon spirals out of control as secrets past and present propel them toward their final, haunting encounter. The book is set along the Big Thompson River at Sylvan Dale Ranch.”

HISTORICAL MARKER AT CHURCH’S STAGE STOP IN WESTMINSTER

The City of Westminster has installed a bronze plaque at Church’s Stage Stop. The inscription on the marker reads: “Before trains or automobiles, the Overland Stagecoach was a vital means of transportation across the United States. In 1864, George and Sarah Church settled on Walnut Creek and built a home that became a stop along the Overland Stage route. The Church Crossing Stage Stop broke up the two-day trip from Denver to Boulder and provided meals, lodging and livery for horses and oxen. President Ulysses S. Grant and his daughter Nellie stayed at Church’s Crossing in 1868 on their way to Central City.”

> Continued on page 5
THE CHEROKEE TRAIL IN WESTMINSTER
From the City of Westminster website

“The Cherokee-Overland Trail crosses into Westminster from Tennyson Street and 52nd Avenue, where Tennyson crosses over Clear Creek at or near where Jim Baker maintained a creek crossing and his cabin. The trail proceeds northwest across the west side of Hidden Lake, which was called Mud Lake in the early 20th century. The trail intersects Sheridan Boulevard and West 73rd Avenue, bisecting present-day Shoenberg Farm. The trail continued to the location where the town of Semper was established near present-day Pierce Street and West 92nd Avenue and continued northwest to Church’s Stage Stop, which was located at Old Wadsworth Boulevard and West 105th Avenue, on the east side of the railroad tracks where Wadsworth passes under the tracks.”

> Continued on page 6
History of the Cherokee Trail

The Cherokee Trail was established around 1849 by Cherokee Indians and their colleagues who were heading west to seek gold. Starting at Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River in southeast Colorado, the Cherokee Trail left the Santa Fe Trail and proceeded to Pueblo and then north along the Front Range into Wyoming, joining the Oregon Trail at Fort Bridger, on Blacks Fork of the Green River. The Cherokee Trail was a primary route from 1849 on for those traveling West to homestead or seek their fortunes during the gold rush of the 1850s.

In 1862, in an effort to avoid the Indian uprisings that were occurring on the Oregon Trail in central Wyoming, the U.S. Post Office Department ordered the Overland Stage Company to officially relocate from the central Wyoming route to the Cherokee Trail. The Overland Trail Denver Loop refers specifically to that portion of the mail and passenger route that was established as a result. Not just a cutoff or a detour, it became for a while the only emigrant route on which the federal government would allow travel, and consequently was the principal corridor to the west from 1862 to 1868. The Overland Trail Stage Stations were established roughly every 10-15 miles from Julesburg, Colorado to Fort Bridger, Wyo.

In 1865, the Overland Wagon Road Company opened a road along the route of the 1850 Cherokee-Overland Trail under a charter issued by the Colorado Territorial legislature. Known as the Overland Wagon Road, it was used as a primary stage and freight route between Denver, Boulder and points north.

Starting in 1864, freighters and travelers along the Cherokee-Overland route stopped at the Church’s Ranch Stage Station (earlier known as Child’s Station) near what is now Old Wadsworth and 105th. Located on the homestead of pioneers George and Sarah Church, the station provided travelers with overnight accommodations. The Churches operated the station throughout the remainder of the 19th century, and frequently hosted teamsters hauling loads of hay from the plains agricultural districts to the mining camps above. Church’s Station was located about twelve miles north of Denver, a standard distance used by pioneers to gauge the limits of daily horse travel during the settlement era.


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